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Rusk Set to Testify At Otepka Hearing

Secretary of State Rusk will testify tomorrow at a closed session of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, presumably to discuss the case of Otto Otepka, the State Department's chief evaluator of security risks, who has been charged by the department with passing privileged material to the subcommittee.

The announcement of the Secretary's appearance came yesterday shortly after Senator Tower, Republican of Texas, said that battle lines were forming for a major battle between Congress and the administration because of the Otepka case.

Senator Tower said that unless Secretary Rusk appears before the Subcommittee and allows his security personnel to testify, "the matter will be taken before the full Senate for action."

The Texan did not specify what action he thinks the Senate could take.

Mr. Otepka, 48, reportedly has been scheduled to be suspended Wednesday.

Rusk Gives Promise

Secretary Rusk promised on October 4 he would testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on security procedures in his department.

He was understood, however, to have requested that he be first supplied with all testimony taken from State Department witnesses in executive session.

Senator Tower said there may be "a rather bitter struggle" between the State Department and the subcommittee over the right of the Senate and the House to find out how the security of the nation is being maintained.

"It may become 'the major anti-Communist case of many sessions of Congress,'" Senator Tower added.

Otepka Advised

The Texas Republican said State Department officials brought 13 charges against Mr. Otepka September 23 "and advised him he would be fired in 30 days."

The charges brought against Mr. Otepka are essentially that he is guilty of conduct unbecoming a diplomatic officer, Senator Tower said. "That conduct involved cooperating with a congressional committee concerning security risks in the State Department."